

# AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

SEPTEMBER 30, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**3.8 million**

Number of People in Afghanistan Targeted by the UN to Receive Humanitarian Assistance  
OCHA – August 2015

**1 million**

Afghans Internally Displaced by Conflict  
UNHCR – August 2015

**334,600**

Undocumented Afghan Refugee Returnees from Pakistan  
UNHCR – August 2015

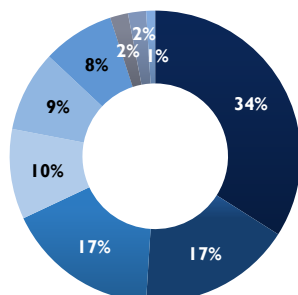
**218,000**

Pakistani Refugees in Afghanistan  
UNHCR – August 2015

**2.6 million**

Afghan Refugees Displaced to Neighboring Countries  
UNHCR – December 2014

## USAID/OFDA<sup>1</sup> FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2015



■ Logistics Support & Relief Commodities (34%)  
■ Humanitarian Coordination & Information Management (17%)  
■ Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (17%)  
■ Risk Management Policy & Practice (10%)  
■ Shelter & Settlements (9%)  
■ Health (8%)  
■ Agriculture & Food Security (2%)  
■ Protection (2%)  
■ Natural & Technological Risks (1%)

## USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup> FUNDING BY MODALITY IN FY 2015



■ U.S. In-Kind Food Aid

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Taliban seizes control of Kunduz, exacerbating insecurity
- Ongoing attacks on civilians and aid workers hinder humanitarian access
- Numbers of IDPs, returnees, and food-insecure households surge
- USAID/OFDA commits an additional \$16 million to support relief efforts

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA	\$25,705,986
USAID/FFP	\$53,607,700
USAID/AFGHANISTAN	\$15,500,000
STATE/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$88,121,760

**\$182,935,446**

TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Taliban forces seized control of northern Afghanistan's Kunduz city on September 28, prompting the looting of regional Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and UN offices, according to international media. Afghan security forces, aided by U.S. military airstrikes, launched a counterattack on September 29 to regain control of the city. Media report that the recent fighting has exacerbated insecurity and population displacement.
- Humanitarian needs in Afghanistan increased in FY 2015, with growing numbers of conflict-induced internally displaced persons (IDPs), Afghan refugee returnees, and Pakistani refugees. The UN had reached 2.3 million of the estimated 7.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance by late June and has requested additional funding for the Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in advance of the winter season.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided more than \$16 million in additional funds to support humanitarian relief activities—including humanitarian coordination and the provision of basic health services, emergency relief commodities, shelter assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions—in Afghanistan.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT

- Intensified conflict between Afghan National Security Forces and non-state armed groups resulted in nearly 5,000 civilian casualties and displaced nearly 170,000 people between January and August, according to the UN. The surge in displacement marks a more than 40 percent increase in new IDPs compared to the same period in 2014, challenging the already strained capacity of humanitarian relief organizations.
  - The Taliban and armed actors continue to carry out targeted attacks against civilians and aid workers, hindering humanitarian access. For instance, a suicide bombing at a September 27 volleyball match in Paktika Province resulted in at least 17 deaths and injured approximately 60 people, according to the UN. Armed individuals also accosted the drivers of five UN World Food Program (WFP) vehicles in Badakhshan Province in mid-September and set fire to the trucks. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that attacks against humanitarian personnel in 2015 had resulted in 39 aid worker deaths as of August.
  - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that nearly 90,000 Afghan refugees returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan between January and September; the rate of spontaneous returns between January and August was approximately six times higher per day on average than during the same period in 2014. International media report that, although the security situation in Afghanistan has not improved, worsening insecurity in Pakistan has driven many Afghan refugees to return to Afghanistan. The UN estimates that 335,000 undocumented returnees, many of whom require humanitarian assistance, were residing in Afghanistan as of July.
  - Insecurity in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency has delayed Pakistani refugee returns from Afghanistan and prolonged the need for humanitarian assistance to refugee populations in Afghanistan, according to UNHCR. Many Pakistani refugees in Afghanistan do not expect to return to Pakistan for another two-to-three years. As of August, approximately 35,000 registered refugee families—nearly 220,000 people—continued to reside in Khost and Paktika provinces near the Afghanistan–Pakistan border.
  - In late September, high-level GoA and Government of the People's Republic of China officials met with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in New York City to discuss ongoing efforts to enhance stability and economic development in Afghanistan, pledging to continue to advance security and prosperity in the region.
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## FOOD SECURITY AND EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

- The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security and agriculture activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—released a report in late August highlighting that food insecurity had deteriorated during Afghanistan's May–June lean season. The report found that 7.3 million people were moderately food insecure and nearly 1.6 million were severely food insecure at the height of the May–June lean season, with female and IDP-headed households nearly 50 percent more likely to be food insecure. The most affected provinces were Ghor and Paktika, where 78 percent and 62 percent of the population, respectively, was either moderately or severely food insecure.
- While the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) predicted an average wheat and agricultural harvest for Afghanistan in 2015, food accessibility for vulnerable populations remains highly challenging. As of July, the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster estimated that approximately 33 percent of people living in Afghanistan did not have sufficient access to food—primarily as a result of low wages, household vulnerability, and asset depletion—and remained in need of emergency food assistance and livelihoods support.
- Between September and November, an estimated 2.5 million people in Afghanistan will experience Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity, while 7.8 million people will experience a Stressed—IPC 2—level of food insecurity, according to the Afghanistan IPC Technical Working Group.<sup>1</sup> The majority of food-insecure people reside in Badakhshan, Badghis, Ghor, Nuristan, and Samangan provinces.

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<sup>1</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

- Due to a lack of funding, WFP began reducing food rations for conflict- and disaster-affected individuals in Afghanistan by 25 percent in April; in Khost and Paktika, WFP reduced food rations by 50 percent. As of August, WFP reported that it would be forced to cease emergency food distributions starting in November if no new funding becomes available. WFP requires \$30 million to continue its critical operations through December.
- In FY 2015, USAID/FFP contributed 40,300 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food assistance—valued at more than \$52 million—to WFP’s Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, helping meet the emergency food needs of vulnerable populations in 184 of Afghanistan’s 404 districts. USAID/FFP also provided 280 MT of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF)—valued at \$1.2 million—to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for the treatment of children younger than five years of age experiencing severe acute malnutrition.

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## NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

- The UN reports that natural disasters—including heavy snowfall, floods, landslides, and drought—affected nearly 110,000 people in Afghanistan during the first half of 2015. Humanitarian organizations are working to pre-position stockpiles of emergency relief commodities in preparation for the winter season.
- With more than \$6 million in USAID/OFDA support, IOM is coordinating with the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority and local communities to bolster natural disaster response capacity, implement disaster risk reduction measures, and provide emergency shelter and relief commodities to disaster-affected households.
- USAID/OFDA is also supporting the Aga Khan Foundation/U.S. (AKF/US), the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US), and ZOA to respond to the urgent needs of vulnerable populations through the provision of disaster preparedness education and planning materials, emergency relief commodities and transitional shelter supplies, and WASH interventions.

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## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In FY 2015, the U.S. Government (USG) provided approximately \$152 million to support humanitarian interventions in response to the complex emergency in Afghanistan. Other international donors collectively provided more than \$186 million, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Of the total humanitarian assistance provided to Afghanistan in 2015, approximately \$201 million has supported the UN’s 2015 HRP for Afghanistan—48 percent of the \$417 million requested.

### CONTEXT

- Ongoing conflict and frequent natural disasters continue to displace populations and generate significant humanitarian needs throughout Afghanistan. As of August 2015, more than 1 million people remain internally displaced by conflict, while natural disasters, such as floods and avalanches, affect approximately 250,000 Afghans each year, according to the UN. Additionally, Afghanistan experienced an influx of Pakistani refugees in Khost and Paktika following July 2014 military operations in Pakistan’s North Waziristan Agency.
- On October 9, 2014, U.S. Ambassador P. Michael McKinley renewed the disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Afghanistan for FY 2015.
- USAID/OFDA supports a three-pronged approach to improving humanitarian response efforts in Afghanistan: supporting rapid response capacity for acute needs following natural disasters and conflict; improving humanitarian indicators; and enhancing humanitarian coordination, data collection, and analysis.
- USAID/FFP food assistance and disaster readiness programs are designed to respond to the food security and nutritional needs of IDPs and returnees, as well as people affected by economic stress; support the recovery of communities affected by shocks; treat moderately malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women; and contribute to learning among primary and lower secondary school pupils and adults, particularly women.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN PROVIDED IN FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA<sup>2</sup></b>			
ACTED	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$999,877
AKF/US	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Natural and Technological Risks, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$1,207,786
IMC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$1,998,414
Information Management and Mine Action Programs (iMMAP)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,112,032
IOM	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice	Countrywide	\$6,093,000
IRC	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Badghis, Helmand, Herat, Khost, Laghman, Logar, Nangarhar, Paktika	\$2,661,384
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
SC/US	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Risk Management Policy and Practice, Shelter and Settlements	Balkh, Bamyan, Faryab, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, Sar-e Pul	\$2,497,928
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$550,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UN World Health Organization (WHO)	Health	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
ZOA	Shelter and Settlements	Jowzjan	\$999,920
	Program Support Costs		\$285,645
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$25,705,986</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup></b>			
UNICEF	280 MT of RUTF	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
WFP	40,300 MT of In-Kind Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$52,407,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$53,607,700</b>
<b>USAID/AFGHANISTAN</b>			
ACTED	WASH	Badakhshan, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Jowzjan	\$1,998,531
FEWS NET	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$11,001,473
ZOA	WASH	Sar-e Pul, Uruzgan	\$1,499,996
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFGHANISTAN ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$15,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$22,700,000
UNHCR	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$48,000,000
NGO Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance, Protection	Afghanistan, Pakistan	\$17,421,760
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$88,121,760</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN IN FY 2015</b>			<b>\$182,935,446</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2015

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance

## **PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at  
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>